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FRANK E. HOWE, Editor and Pub.
Wednesday, August 23, 1916.

There is a vague rumor around here that Senator Page has been quite seriously ill during the past two weeks, due to the heat coupled with his advanced years. He was ill when he was in Bennington two weeks ago and told several of his friends that he should be back here as soon as he felt better. They have not seen or heard from him since and this fact may have led to the rumor of his illness.

One of the things the farmers are having to contend with this year is smut in their corn crop. There has always been some of this disease in the corn fields of New England but it is much worse this year than ever before and the crop will be injured somewhat by it. So far as known there is no sure remedy but the spread of the disease can be lessened by cutting off and burning affected stalks.

The Maine State election takes place this year on Monday, September 11th, and the premier position, formerly held by Vermont as a barometer State, now goes to Maine. The result is that all eyes will be turned toward the Pine Tree State to see which way the tide is flowing. Both parties will be able to get the best speakers in the country for their campaign in Maine and the educational effect cannot but be considerable. Vermont was very foolish in giving up its September elections.

If the Republican voters get so disgusted with all their senatorial candidates owing to the disclosures and criticisms made, they might do worse than to vote for the Democratic nominee who is Oscar C. Miller of Newport. Mr. Miller is a partner of former Governor George H. Prouty and one of the leading business men of northern Vermont. He has had long experience in business and, while not prominent politically owing to the fact that he is a member of the minority party, Mr. Miller ranks well wherever known and we have no doubt he would make a creditable United States Senator.

The town of Stratton is to have an Old Home day on Saturday, August 26th, and invites all former residents, relatives and friends to meet at the old deserted Stratton church and help celebrate the occasion. Stratton is one of the mountain towns of Vermont which has lost most of its population during the past forty years, but the township contains a large area of tillable land and in the generations to come, after this country becomes more crowded, Stratton will be one of the good agricultural towns of Vermont. There is not a single inhabitant left in the old village of Stratton and at the church there, there has not been a service for many years.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

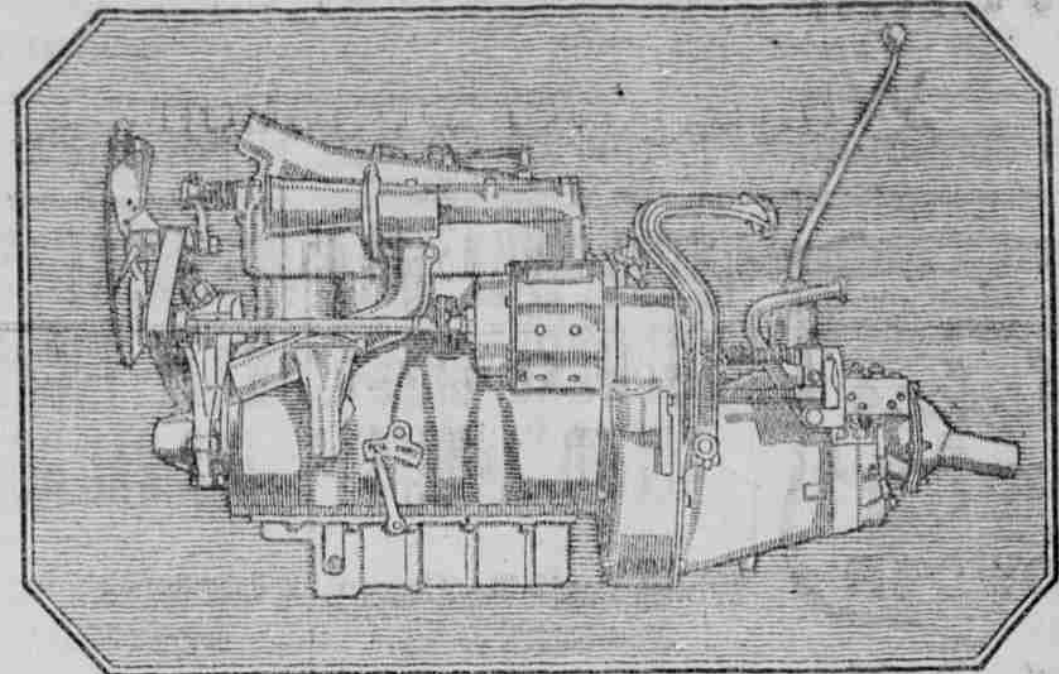
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Foolish Waste of Life.

"The deadly grade crossings continue to take their ghastly toll. Sunday witnessed the killing of two men in an automobile, by the Montreal express, on the New Hampshire side of the Massachusetts state line. For every fatality recorded, there are scores of hairbreadth escapes which never come to public attention. How long must we submit to this menace?"—Manchester (N. H.) Union.

These things will happen so long as drivers of automobiles are willing to take foolish chances with death. Substantial progress is being made by railroads in the elimination of grade crossings, but there is a limit to the elimination work undertaken by any road in any given year because of simple financial reasons.

All the blame for grade crossing fatalities does not rest with the railroads, by any means, a fact that has become more and more impressed on the public, and especially in New Hampshire where the public service committee urged motorists to do their share in avoiding accidents.

The automobile public must co-operate with the railroads and the states in this matter. They must recognize that a second or two lost while a train goes by is of small importance, while it is a very dangerous practice to race with a train and attempt to speed over a crossing just ahead of a locomotive in order to save a few seconds.

A man in his ordinary sense would not do such a thing; it would seem but men do it every day, and men and women are killed as a result of this highly foolish practice. Harsh as it may seem to say it, a large number of grade crossing accidents are monuments to lack of common sense on the part of those who rush into them. The fool who rocks the boat and the man in the auto who pays no attention to grade crossing warnings belong in the same class.—St. Albans Messenger.

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